

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
19 May 2005 (19.05.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/043994 A1

(15) International Patent Classification⁷: **A01K 67/033**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2004/004596

(22) International Filing Date: 29 October 2004 (29.10.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0325304.4 30 October 2003 (30.10.2003) GB

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):
SEABAIT LIMITED [GB/GB]; Woodhorn Village,
Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9NW (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **OLIVE, Peter,**
James, William [GB/GB]; 3 Gerrard Close, Whitley
Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 4NS (GB). **CRAIG, Stephen**
[GB/GB]; 55 Warkworth Woods, Gosforth, Newcastle
Upon Tyne NE3 5RA (GB).

(74) Agent: **MURGITROYD & COMPANY;** Scotland
House, 165-169 Scotland Street, Glasgow G5 8PL (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG,
PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM,
TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM,
ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI,
SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ,
GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: A METHOD FOR INDUCING THE SEXUAL MATURATION OF LUGWORMS

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method for inducing gamete maturation in marine worms of the family *Arenicolidae* and which exhibit epidemic spawning. In the method, male and/or female worms in a housing substrate (such as sand) in sea water are maintained at a temperature of 4 to 8°C for 14 to 24 days, preferably 5 to 7°C for 20 to 22 days. Spawning of the worms can then be induced either by exposure to suitable spawning promoting hormones or by raising the temperature of the sea water to 12 to 14°C.

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